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8-18-92
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Docket No. 710 P 304

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application)
Nels Edward Ursich)
Title: SELF-LOCKING FEMALE)
RECEPTOR FOR ELECTRICAL)
CORD)

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.97, 1.98

The accompanying list of patents was cited in applicant's co-pending application, Serial No. 719,930 filed June 24, 1991, and in the specification of said patent application.

Claim 1 has been amended to define that the actuator means includes a pair of locking elements that are positioned between the prongs of a male plug and are urged outward in opposite directions to locking contact of the prongs.

The Europe '842 publication does not disclose an actuator having a pair of locking elements movable in opposite directions between spaced prongs to engage the prong holes as now recited in

Claims 1 to 9. The Janowiec (2,732,531) is directed to a lockable electrical connector and is not directed to a pair of locking elements engaging two prongs. Carpinone (3,200,365) discloses a safety ball socket connector for electric plugs which does not include locking elements engaging the prong holes of a male connector in being urged outwardly in opposite directions. Long (4,909,749) discloses electrical sockets in which serrations dig into the outer surface of a plug member and does not include a pair of locking elements movable in opposite directions between the male prongs.

Pool (2,198,504) discloses locking elements which do not include an external actuator for convenient release as the invention of Claims 1 to 9. Earl et al. (2,631,185) shows a coupling for electrical joints in which a pair of locking elements are not present between the prongs as in the invention of Claims 1 to 9. Hawley (4,566,297) discloses an electrical plug locking device not using a pair of locking elements urged in opposite directions as in the invention of Claims 1 to 9. Farnworth et al. (4,179,175) discloses a safety socket in which the locking elements is not provided with an external actuator to simply release the male plug as needed. Finally, McEneaney (2,664,734) discloses a locking device for electrical connections in which no external actuator is provided for release. McEneaney requires a separate key in which to release the prongs and does

not employ a single external actuator that conveniently locks and disengages the plug elements.

Respectfully submitted,



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